



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Dolores Ranger District  
San Juan National Forest

29211 Hwy 184  
Dolores, CO 81323-9308  
Phone 970-882-7296  
Fax 970-882-6841  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan>

File Code: 2360

Date: September 24, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce that the Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest has finalized the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Dolores Aspen Landscape Vegetation Project*. A Draft Decision Notice is also being released at this time. The release of these documents coincides with the start of an objection period. You are receiving this letter because you previously commented during the planning process for this project and may be eligible to file an objection.

#### **Draft Decision**

As Dolores District Ranger, I will sign the Decision Notice. I intend to choose the Modified Proposed Action as described in the corresponding EA. In brief, the decision will authorize vegetation management activities on mature aspen stands in five areas, generally located east and northeast of Dolores, CO. A combination of ground-based mechanized equipment and hand felling with chainsaws would be used to harvest the timber (both aspen and conifer). Additional activities connected to the proposed action would include: maintenance and reconstruction of existing forest system roads; temporary road construction and obliteration; and slash treatment.

#### **Document Availability**

More details regarding actions being proposed can be found in the Final EA and in the draft Decision Notice. These documents are available on the web at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54880>. These documents can also be obtained by calling the Dolores Ranger District at 970 882-7296.

#### **Pre-Decisional Objection Period**

Regulations at 36 CFR Part 218 provide for a pre-decision administrative review rather than a post-decision appeal process. The Draft Decision Notice being released at this time is subject to administrative review (objection) pursuant to Federal Regulations at 36 CFR Part 218, Subparts A and B.

Objections, including attachments, must be in writing and filed with the Objection Reviewing Officer within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice announcing the opportunity to object in the *Cortez Journal*. Publication is anticipated to occur on September 24, 2019. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during designated scoping or comment periods (36



CFR 218.5(a)). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities (36 CFR 218.8(c)). Objections must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d); incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Objections, including attachments, must be in writing and filed as follows:

Postal service and street delivery address:

Objection Reviewing Officer,  
Forest Supervisor Kara Chadwick,  
San Juan National Forest,  
15 Burnett Court,  
Durango, CO 81301

Hand-delivery is accepted Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

or via FAX: 970-385-1386

or via electronic submittal: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54880>

Electronically submitted objections must be in plain text (.txt), Word (.doc or .docx), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Rich Text Format (.rtf) file formats.

#### **Implementation Date**

Implementation will occur under the Final Decision Notice, which will be issued following the close of the objection resolution period. If no objections are received, implementation of the decisions may begin on, but not before, the fifth business day following the close of the objection filing period. If an objection is received, implementation may occur immediately following the close of the objection resolution period once the Final Decision Notice has been signed. 36 CFR 218.12

#### **Additional Information**

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss this project, feel free to contact me at the Dolores Ranger District at 970 882-7296.

Sincerely,



DEREK J PADILLA  
District Ranger